

Remarks:

The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the Office action dated June 30, 2005. Prior to entry of this response, claims 1-45 were pending in the application. In the Office action, 1) claims 1-6, 35, 37, 43, and 45 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Rodriguez, Jr. et al. (US 6,520,646); 2) claims 7, 12, 14, 17, and 19 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rodriguez in view of an airplane; 3) claims 1-2, 6-7, 9-10, 12, 14-16, 19, 22, 26, 28-30, and 32-45 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoffman (US 4,281,352) in view of Holder et al. (US 5,622,419); 4) claims 8 and 23 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoffman in view of Holder and Kuwa et al. (US 6,624,952); 5) claim 18 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoffman in view of Holder and Sunaga (US Pub. No. 2002/0008853); 6) claims 20 and 31 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoffman in view of Holder and Goto (US 6,023,369); 7) claims 21 and 25 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoffman in view of Holder and Koizumi et al. (US 5,982,537); 8) claim 27 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoffman in view of Holder and Maslow (US 5,580,146); 9) claims 11, 13, and 24 are indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. In view of the amendments above, and the remarks below, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 11. Amended claim 1 has the same scope as original claim 11, and therefore, rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn. Claims 2-10 depend from claim 1, and therefore, rejection of claims 2-10 should also be withdrawn. Claim 11 is cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 12 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 13. Amended claim 12 has the same scope as original claim 13, and therefore, rejection of claim 12 should be withdrawn. Claims 14-21 depend from claim 12, and therefore, rejection of claims 14-21 should also be withdrawn. Claim 13 is cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 22 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 24. Amended claim 22 has the same scope as original claim 24, and therefore, rejection of claim 22 should be withdrawn. Claims 23 and 25-31 depend from claim 22, and therefore, rejection of claims 23 and 25-31 should also be withdrawn. Claim 24 is cancelled without prejudice.

Formal Matters

Claim 10 is amended to correct a typographical error.

Rejections under 35 USC § 102 & § 103

Applicants respectfully traverse the substantive rejections of claims 1-10, 12, 14-23, and 25-45. However, in order to advance prosecution without further delay, claims 1-10, 12, 14-23, and 25-31 are amended in accordance with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Claims 32-45 are cancelled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to address the Examiner's rejections of claims 1-10, 12, 14-23, and 25-45, as well as comments made in support of the rejections, in a continuation application.

Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

CERTIFICATE OF
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postages as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on July 29, 2005.



Nicole Fye

Respectfully submitted,

ALLEMAN HALL MCCOY RUSSELL & TUTTLE LLP



Jason C. Creasman

Registration No. 51,587
Customer No. 50488
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)/Assignee
806 S.W. Broadway, Suite 600
Portland, Oregon 97205
Telephone: (503) 459-4141
Facsimile: (503) 459-4142